

# THE WAIKATO CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST PETER

## BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.' And he took them in his arms and blessed them. Mark 10:13

*The Priest addresses the parents and godparents.*

Children who are too young to profess the Christian faith are baptised on the understanding that they will be brought up as Christians within the family of the Church.

As they grow up, they need the help and encouragement of that family, so that they learn to be faithful in public worship and private prayer, to live by trust in God, and to come to confirmation.

Parents and godparents, *this child/ these children* whom you have brought for baptism *depend* chiefly on you for the help and encouragement *he/she/they need*. Are you willing to give your help by your prayers, by your example, and by your teaching?

**Answer**      **I am willing**

*If the children are old enough to understand, the priest speaks to them in these or similar words.*

N, when you are baptised, you become a member of a new family. God takes you for his own child, and all Christian people will be your brothers and sisters.

**Priest** We thank God therefore for our baptism to life in Christ, and we pray for *these children* and say together

**All**      **Heavenly Father in your love you have called us to know you, and led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround this child with your love; protect him/her from all evil; fill him/her with your Holy Spirit; and receive them into the family of your Church that they may walk with us in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. Amen**

*The Priest addresses the parents and godparents.*

Those who bring children to baptism must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil.

It is your duty to bring up *these children* to fight against evil and to follow Christ.

Therefore I ask these questions which you must answer for yourselves and for *these children*.

Answer	Do you turn to Christ? <b>I turn to Christ</b>
Answer	Do you repent of your sins? <b>I repent of my sins.</b>
Answer	Do you renounce evil? <b>I renounce evil.</b>
Priest	May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. <b>Amen</b>

## BLESSING THE WATER

**All**      Praise God who made heaven and earth:  
**who keeps his promises forever.**

**Priest** Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us;  
We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land;  
We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.  
+Bless this water, that your *servants* who are to be washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon *them* to bring them to new birth in the family of your Church, and raise *them* with Christ to full and eternal life.  
For all might, majesty and honour are yours, now and forever. Amen

*The priest addresses the parents and godparents*

You have brought *these children* to baptism. You must now declare before

God and his Church the Christian faith into which *they are* to be baptised, and in which you will help *them* to grow. You must answer for yourself and for *these children*. Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made heaven and earth?

Answer **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed humanity?

Answer **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God's Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

Answer **I believe and trust in him.**

*The priest turns to the congregation*

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Priest N, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Priest + I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are to be true to Christ crucified and that you are to be ashamed to confess your faith in him.

**All Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.**

*The priest gives each child a lighted candle*

Priest Receive this light to show you have passed from darkness to light.

**All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

Priest God has received you by baptism into his Church.

**All We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God. We welcome you.**

Priest Lord God our Father, maker of heaven and earth, we thank you that by your Holy Spirit *these children have* been born into new life, adopted for your own, and received into the fellowship of your Church: grant that they may grow in the faith into which *they* have been baptised, that *they* may profess it for *themselves* when *they* come to be confirmed, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*. **Amen**

(For the parents)

Priest Heavenly Father, we pray for the parents of *these children*; give them the spirit of wisdom and love, that their *homes* may reflect the joy of your eternal kingdom. **Amen**

(For the god-parents)

Priest God of truth and love, we pray for the godparents of *them/him/her* whom we have baptised in your name, that they may desire to share with their godchild what you have revealed to us in your holy gospel.

Priest Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Priest Accept these and all our prayers through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen**

The Prayers

(For the child/children)